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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/838)]

45/153. Human rights and mass exoduses

The General Assembly,

Mindful of its general humanitarian mandate under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply disturbed by the continuing scale and magnitude of exoduses of refugees and displacements of population in many regions of the world and by the human suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons,

Conscious of the fact that human rights violations are one of the multiple and complex factors causing mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, as indicated in the study of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on this subject 1/ and also in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, 2/

Aware of the recommendations concerning mass exoduses made by the Commission on Human Rights to its Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to special rapporteurs to be taken into account when studying violations of human rights in any part of the world,

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1/ E/CN.4/1503.

2/ A/41/324, annex.

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Deeply preoccupied by the increasingly heavy burden being imposed, particularly upon developing countries with limited resources of their own and upon the international community as a whole, by these sudden mass exoduses and displacements of population,

Stressing the need for international co-operation aimed at averting new massive flows of refugees while providing durable solutions to actual refugee situations,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/70 of 3 December 1986, in which it endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,

Bearing in mind its resolution 44/164 of 15 December 1989 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1990/52 of 6 March 1990, 3/ as well as all previous relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

Welcoming the steps taken so far by the United Nations to examine the problem of massive outflows of refugees and displaced persons in all its aspects, including its root causes,

Noting that the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has specifically acknowledged the direct relationship between observance of human rights standards, refugee movements and problems of protection,

1. Reaffirms its support for the recommendation of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees that the principal organs of the United Nations should make fuller use of their respective competencies under the Charter of the United Nations for the prevention of new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

2. Again invites all Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their co-operation with and assistance to world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and also the causes of such exoduses;

3. Requests all Governments to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant international instruments, in particular in the field of human rights, as this would contribute to averting new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

4. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to keep the question of human rights and mass exoduses under review with a view to supporting the early-warning arrangement instituted by the Secretary-General to avert new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 2 and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

5. Takes note of the establishment by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the Working Group on Solutions and Protection; 4/

6. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses, 5/ and invites him to inform the General Assembly in future reports of the modalities of early-warning activities to avert new and massive flows of refugees;

7. Welcomes the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The co-ordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows"; 6/

8. Specially encourages the Secretary-General to continue to discharge the task described in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, including the continuous monitoring of all potential outflows, keeping in mind the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit; 7/

9. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to develop the role of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information of the Secretariat as a focal point for the operation of an effective early-warning system and the strengthening of co-ordination of information-gathering and analysis among United Nations agencies with a view to preventing new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons;

10. Urges the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary resources to consolidate and strengthen the system for undertaking early-warning activities in the humanitarian area by, inter alia, the computerization of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information and strengthened co-ordination among the relevant parts of the United Nations system, especially the Office for Research and the Collection of Information, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the relevant specialized agencies;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary information available to the competent United Nations organs, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

4/ See A/45/12/Add.1, sect. III.A.

5/ A/45/607.

6/ A/45/649 and Corr.1, annex.

7/ Ibid., sect. VI.B.

12. Invites bodies of the United Nations system to consider the most expedient ways and means of following up the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on co-ordination; 7/

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the strengthened role that he is playing with regard to early-warning activities, especially in the humanitarian area, as well as on any further developments relating to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees;

14. Invites the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the efforts to follow up recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

15. Decides to continue consideration of the question of human rights and mass exoduses at its forty-sixth session.

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990